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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79ISLAMAQ12180

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ID-14 SR-04 ADS-00 RP-10 AID-05  
H-01 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /080 W  
-----061418 280959Z /10

R 251112Z OCT 79  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5438  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USUN NEW YORK 1845  
USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12180

F.O. 12065: GDS 10/25/85(KING, B.) OR-M  
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UNHCR, PK, AF  
SUBJ: UNHCR PROGRAM TO MEET GROWING AFGHAN REFUGEE PROBLEM  
IN PAKISTAN

REFS: A) ISLAMABAD 10806, B) GENEVA 16245

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE.

3. ON OCTOBER 25 UNDP RES REP PRIESTLY AND UNHCR  
REP UDKAN CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO BRING US UP TO DATE  
ON AFGHAN REFUGEE SITUATION. IN LAST FEW WEEKS NUMBER  
OF REFUGEES HAS GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY. BY OCTOBER 18  
NUMBER IN CAMPS HAD REACHED 223,000 WITH 9,000 NEW  
ARRIVALS IN PRECEDING WEEK. UNHCR REP ESTIMATES THAT  
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THROUGHOUT WINTER AFGHAN REFUGEES WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW  
INTO PAKISTAN A RATE OF 1,000 A DAY, WHICH WOULD MEAN  
THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR NUMBER WILL HAVE REACHED  
300,000. INITIAL UNHCR BUDGET FOR PAKISTAN FOR PERIOD  
OCTOBER 1979 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1980 OF \$10 MILLION IS  
BASED ON REFUGEE POPULATION OF 185,000.

4. TO MEET THIS GROWING PROBLEM UNHCR IS ASSEMBLING  
RESIDENT STAFF TO WHICH UDKAN WILL HAND OVER AT THE

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END OF HIS THREE-TO-FOUR MONTHS TDY. HEAD OF MISSION WILL BE SENIOR OFFICER FROM GENEVA, SUPPORTED BY PROGRAM OFFICER IN ISLAMABAD, FIELD OFFICERS IN PESHAWAR AND QUETTA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS AND APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF LOCALLY HIRED STAFF. UDKAN IS TRYING TO CONVINCE POTENTIAL DONORS TO CHANNEL THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH UNHCR. KUWAITIS HAVZ ALREADY ALLOCATED \$5.3 MILLION (MAINLY TEA AND SUGAR) TO ASSIST REFUGEES. CABLE HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM WORLD FOOD PROGRAM ALLOCATING \$5 MILLION FOR FOOD AID. CHURCH WORLD SRRVICES HAS ALREADY BEGUN DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM, WITH INITIAL ALLOCATION OF \$100 THOUSAND FOR BLANKETS AND TENTS. IT IS UDKAN'S UNDERSTANDING THERE WILL BE A UNHCR PLEDGING MEETING SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER AT WHICH GROWING REFUGEE PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN WILL BE REVIEWED. HE WONDERED IF WE HAD HAD ANY INDICATION OF MAGNITUDE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE. QUESTION OF WHAT USG WOULD BE GIVING IS SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST BY OFFICIALS OF GOP, AS WELL AS SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD WHO SAID GULF STATES WILL BE CONFERRING SHORTLY ON AFGHAN REFUGEE SITUATION.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION CHURCH WORLD SERVICE REP TOLD US THAT \$250 THOUSAND ALREADY IN PIPELINE. DISTRIBUTUION OF BLANKETS, WHICH ARE BEING MADE LOCALLY, HAS ALREADY  
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BEGUN. FOR TIME BEING CWS WILL CONFINE ITSELF TO ASSISTING WITH BLANKETS AND WINTER CLOTHING. \$100 THOUSAND WORTH OF TENTS OFFERED BY GERMAN CHURCH ORGANIZATION WILL BE TURNED OVER DIRECTLY TO UNHCR. CWS REP, WHO HAS JUST COME BACK FROM VISITING REFUGEE AREA, SAID THAT NUMBER OF AFGHANS IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE AND BALUCHISTAN OUTSIDE OF REFUGEE CAMPS IS ROUGHLY EQUAL TO OFFICIAL REFUGEE FIGURE. AS WINTER APPROACHES, FAMILY AND CLAN UNITS ARE MOVING INTO SUCH AREAS AS SWAT VALLEY WITH THEIR LIVESTOCK. POTENTIAL FOR FRICTION WITH LOCAL POPULATION IS CONSIDERABLE. CWS REP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MANY WILL NOT RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN SO LONG AS PRESENT REGIME IN KABL REMAINS. OTHERS HAVE TOLD HIM THEY WILL ALSO NOT RETURN IF REGIME WERE TO BE OVERTHROWN AND REPLACED BY A FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIC STATE.

6. ACTIONS REQUESTED: EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES THAT (A) USG MAKE EARLY DECISION ON MAGNITUDE OF PROPOSED U.S. CONTRIBUTION AT NOVEMBER PLEDGING SESSION, HOPEFULLY A SIZEABLE ONE; AND (B) THAT WE GIVE EARLY NOTICE, HERE IN ISLAMABAD AND ALSO IN VIENNA, OF STRONG USG INTEREST AS WELL AS INDICATION OF SIZE OF CONTRIBUTION, SINCE OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS WILL EVIDENTLY BE INFLUENCED BY U.S. ATTITUDE.  
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